Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, lines 17-28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention relates to antisense-oligonucleotides with the following sequence 5'- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG – 3' SEQ ID NO: 1, modifications thereof, parts of the antisense oligonucleotide with at least 8 nucleotides and/or modifications thereof. They show a surprisingly much more effective inhibition of the expression and/or function of "Melanoma Inhibitory Activity" MIA, thereby eliciting a more effective inhibition of tumor invasion and/or inhibition of metastasis and for a more effective stimulation of immune cells and/or the immune system than antisense-oligonucleotides of the prior art. The present invention also pertains to a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one of the antisense oligonucleotides or modifications thereof and to its use for the prevention or the treatment of neoplasms, infections and /or immunosuppressive disorders.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 5, lines 7-18, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

In one embodiment of the invention, the antisense oligonucleotide having the sequence 5'-TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG SEQ ID NO: 1 or modifications thereof has a DNA- or RNA-type structure able to hybridize to an area of the gene region coding MIA and thereby reducing and/or inhibiting the expression of MIA. It is also understood by persons skilled in the art that fragments having subsequences of the above given antisense oligonucleotide with at least 8 nucleotides or modifications thereof work according to the invention so long

as production of MIA is reduced or inhibited.

In the following, the antisense oligonucleotide with the sequence 5´- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG SEQ ID NO: 1 and antisense oligonucleotides representing parts of this sequence with at least 8 nucleotides are referred to as the antisense oligonucleotides.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 21, lines 12-23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 discloses the inhibition of MIA expression by different oligonucleotides in HTZ-19 melanoma cells. The bars indicate residual MIA expression of antisense oligonucleotide treated compared to untreated medium control (Medium) or Lipofectin-treated cells (Lipofectin). The numbers 1-8 correspond to the state of art antisense oligonucleotides of the patent application WO 01/68122 having the SEQ ID NOS: 1-8 or to the antisense oligonucleotide of the present invention with the sequence 5´- TTG CAT AAA CCC AAG GAG – 3' SEQ ID NO: 1, referred to as "new". The strongest inhibition was achieved with the "new" antisense oligonucleotide being able to inhibit MIA-expression by 84% compared to the state of art antisense oligonucleotides 1-8 (corresponding to SEQ ID NOS: 1-8 of the patent application WO 01/68122), where inhibition of MIA-expression varied between 48% and 65%.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, lines 17-22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The strongest inhibition of MIA expression in the supernatant compared to untreated control-cells was achieved with the "new" antisense oligonucleotide SEQ ID NO: 1 of the present invention being able to inhibit MIA-expression by 84% compared to the state of art antisense oligonucleotide described in WO 01/68122 having the SEQ ID NOS: 1-8, where inhibition of MIA-expression varied between 48% and 66%.

What is claimed is: